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The Highlander

Thursday **November 28 2024** | Issue 668

INSIDE: HUMANIZING THE BADGE PART 3 - PAGES 2-3

FREE



Christmas magic

Young parade-goer Frankie Casey, with dad Parker, was excited to see the floats, marching bands and dance troupes at the Haliburton Santa Claus parade Nov. 22. See more photos on page 9. Photo by Justin Belanger.

Grass Lake development reduced to 38 units

By Mike Baker

The years-long battle between property developer Paul Wilson and members of the Friends of Grass Lake (FGL) over a proposed build off Peninsula Road in Haliburton has concluded. An agreement to reduce the number of residential units was ratified by the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) this week.

Wilson and FGL representatives appeared before the OLT Nov. 25, presenting terms of a settlement the two parties have been working on since the summer.

A three-week hearing was set to begin Monday. Originally, the project was to feature 88 units across four lots on the lake's western shore. Each lot would have housed multi-storey apartment and condo buildings, with one unit - the one closest to Peninsula Road and County Road 21 - to feature a commercial component.

Speaking to *The Highlander* following the hearing, Wilson said the new agreement is to develop 38 units. The northernmost parcel will feature a 35-unit apartment-style building, with the capability for commercial use, while the other three lots have been redesigned for single-family homes.

"I'm happy this is over, and the project isn't in limbo anymore," Wilson said.

He said he decided to reduce the number of units after speaking with builders in the area who felt it would be difficult to make money with the original 88-unit design.

"The answer I got from them is that this just isn't the time to do this [build]. Prices are too high for materials. They wouldn't be able to make any money. They said even if I gave them the lot for nothing, they still

wouldn't make any money," Wilson said.

Only one of the four proposed condominiums would have been large enough to be economically-viable, Wilson said. Already five years in, the property developer decided he didn't want to wait. He said the next step is for Dysart et al township to process severance applications for the four lots, which he expects to happen in early spring. Wilson then plans to list the properties.

After initially agreeing to donate one of the four lots to non-profit Places for People, to create 15 new affordable rentals in the village, Wilson said he still plans to work with the organization.

"With the one lot now being for 35 units, that is beyond the financial scope for P4P to do this by themselves. I'm trying to work with them and other groups to collectively develop that property," Wilson said. "They will be part of it - I made a commitment to help P4P and I want to honour that."

Fay Martin, P4P vice president, said discussions have taken place between the local non-profit and Peterborough's Habitat for Humanity branch, where she's also a board member.

"The County is in Habitat's catchment but it's hard for them to do their thing up here without a solid base in the community," Martin said, feeling there's potential for a joint Habitat/P4P venture on the Grass Lake lands.

"Paul Wilson's project is a marvellous opportunity for figuring out the complications of how best to structure that partnership," Martin added.

"The discussions are underway... from

Continued 'Affordable' on page 7

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‘Jack’ thankful for team intervention

HIGHLANDER FEATURES

By Lisa Gervais

Jack recalls the day he took a taxi from Highlands East to the Minden OPP station. He had to be fingerprinted in connection with an impaired driving charge.

Jack (a pseudonym) wasn’t crazy about cops, well, authority figures of any kind, really. Jack didn’t have a lot of respect for “the system.

“I was probably three quarters in the bag, in the morning, as usual,” he shares. “I didn’t really want to go there.”

The distrust stemmed from being a victim of sexual assault as a child, by people in positions of power. Now an adult, he’d spent the better part of his life fighting post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The demons had escorted him into the comforting arms of alcohol. He was an addict.

The cop taking the prints was Const. Joel Imbeau, and Jack remembered him being “kind of intimidating... a big boy.”

At the end of the processing, Imbeau handed Jack a phone number for the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH). “I think you need to talk to somebody,” Jack recalls the burly constable advising him.

At the time, Jack shrugged it off. But he took the number. He said he did so in part because of how Imbeau presented the information. He was not forcing the man to do anything. It took a few days, but Jack made the call. And that, as they say, has made all the difference.

He recently received his 11-month chip from Alcoholics Anonymous and attends local meetings.

That doesn’t mean Jack is cured. Far from it. But he is in a better place thanks to Imbeau, who heads up the Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) on behalf of OPP, in conjunction with the Canadian Mental Health Association, Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge (CMHA HKPR).

After Jack made that call to CAMH, he got a response within weeks. They wanted to see him in his home. A worker arrived with a nurse. After that initial visit, a plan was put in place, and the worker would return; spending about 18 months in Jack’s life.



Taking fingerprints at the Minden detachment of the OPP. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

“I didn’t have to go into an institute or anything like that, which I really would have had a hard time with,” Jack says of those early days. At the time, the CAMH worker was coming weekly.

“I had to be sober for meetings and there were guidelines and rules.”

The CAMH worker accompanied him on visits to his family doctor. She discussed medications with the GP, and asked questions. She was trying different therapies to help him cope. He eventually went to rehab in Elliot Lake.

The worker was there when he had to go to court for failing to surrender a driver’s

license. Jack says court is very traumatizing for him, after having to testify against an abuser. It’s a trigger, and he said, “I’ve done some terrible things triggered... put a garbage can through a cruiser’s window.” He also lauds the help he received from a local probation officer. He’s also had dealings with Fourcast, a community-based addiction treatment provider.

Jack said his experience testifying, “basically destroyed my life. So, obviously alcohol was a big thing in my life, and I lost everything.”

He said the convicted perpetrator got 9.5 years in a minimum-security institution.

“I went through 10 years of hell.” The testimony brought memories of the assaults back. “I just f***ing had it on my end, and was living in a little shack outside of town.”

He was diagnosed with cancer though says the “numbers are good” now. Then, COVID struck. He had a house fire. It was pretty much rock bottom.

That’s about the time he had the chance meeting with Imbeau.

“His demeanor and attitude. He didn’t force me. I expected it, but he didn’t muscle me. He didn’t threaten me. If someone had threatened me, I would have been right out the f***ing door,” Jack says. He stops for a

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Continued from page 2

second and a smile appears, “he had a sore back that day. I figured I could take him.”

Jack has been living in the County nine years and says, “I don’t think I would have received this help down in Barrie or Orillia. I know I can call the Ontario Works office here and I can ask for workers by name and I know if they can’t talk to me, they will call back. And they’ll say, ‘hey, Jack, how are you doing?’”

He said he has given out the number Imbeau gave him for CAMH to half a dozen people. “People come to talk to me knowing I’m going through issues and they ask me how I do it... it might be their kid, or another relative, and they’re in an impossible situation. But there is a road map that leads to what the real issues are. Everybody in AA has a problem, whether they recognize it or not and are willing to do something about it.”

Jack recalls running into Imbeau who was with another client at the Haliburton Hospital one day, “and I went up and thanked him.”

Having an impact

Imbeau said he has played an active role in more than 200 calls since last February, when he started the role full-time. He said they have ranged from basic to extremely complex.

He knows it is a cliché, but said he became a police officer because he wanted to help people. He finds it rewarding.

“I’ve been a police officer for 13 years and a frontline member for those years dealing with regular calls for service and attempting to support people the best I could with what I had.”

He said underlying mental health issues are at the root of many police calls.

Calli Lorente of CMHA HKPR says the MCRT is making a difference.

“Monumental” since having the officer in the role, she said. Looking at statistics from 2023 – as compared to February 2024 to July 2024, she said the number of people served in the community had increased by 58 per cent. In 2023, she said they helped 41 people, and in half a year of 2024 had raised that number to 65, with six months still to be reported by the anniversary of Imbeau’s placement.

She added having staff in the County – who know services that are available to people in the Highlands – is creating connections for community partners.



Const. Joel Imbeau at a Take Back the Night event in Minden. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

“With the increase in individuals served, we’ve been able to increase the number of referrals made to intensive health support. People are getting support in that initial time of crisis, but are also getting referred to a mental health worker in that area, who knows the people, the geography, and is able to provide ongoing support for specific, what is presented, concerns.”

Lorente said it is breaking down silos.

“When you have someone consistently up in a specific location, whether Peterborough, Haliburton or Minden, you know who the community partners are, who the agencies are. You get to know who the people are who do the role and what a good referral looks like, or what their program or scope of practice is. You have less program deviation, where you are trying to fill in gaps because you know who the people are

to advance those things, or provide care in those gaps.

“It’s really about working together, and you can do that when you have the time to actually start to build those relationships.”

Another reason she thinks the Mobile Crisis Response Team is working in Haliburton County is they are seeing fewer repeat calls. “We’re having new individuals served.”

Imbeau added, “I would say this job, in totality, has been very rewarding. I feel almost humbled to be part of the program because I do feel like I’m supporting and helping people. I find at times it is emotionally exhausting, without question. But, you know, I say one positive story out of 10 is enough for me.”

“One positive story out of 10 is enough for me. Const. Joel Imbeau”



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The Service Ontario location in Haliburton village closed in late October. The area is now being served by a mobile unit. *File.*

Service Ontario goes mobile in Haliburton

By Mike Baker

It's been four weeks since the Service Ontario location in Haliburton closed and Joey Wu, spokesperson for the ministry of public and business service delivery (MPBSD), said there's no timeline for a permanent hub to be reopened, if at all. The space at 50 York St. remains vacant after the service provider running the facility tendered their resignation last month. It was open daily during the week, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, providing a space for people to renew their license plates, accessible parking permits, and get their driver's licenses and health cards. Wu said the ministry has extended a new pilot program to Haliburton, bringing a mobile Service Ontario station to the

community on select dates. It will be in the A.J. LaRue Arena parking lot, at 728 Mountain St., on Dec. 4 and 18 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is the eighth community to join the pilot, Wu confirmed, after MacTier, Burk's Falls, Apsley, Denbigh, Whitney, Powassan, and Moose Deer Point First Nation. The mobile centre has been in operation since February. "The centre is part of a program aimed at offering residents convenient, local, in-person access to the government services they rely on," Wu said. "Mobile service delivery provides an effective and efficient service delivery alternative that ensures customer service excellence and community presence." People can also access driver and vehicle records, register to be an organ and tissue

donor, apply for hunting and fishing licenses, and have documents authorized by a commissioner of oaths. The unit is wheelchair accessible and has a lower-level counter installed for people who need it. A sign language interpreter is available upon request. Wu advised people book appointments online (ontario.ca/locations/serviceontario/aj-larue-community-centre-haliburton) or over the phone (416-325-3408). He said walk-ins are available but limited due to high demand for booked services. Wu confirmed the mobile unit has a presence in Haliburton in November. He did not directly respond to questions asking whether the ministry was actively investigating opening another permanent location in Haliburton, instead sharing, "as

always, Service Ontario will continue to monitor the effectiveness of service delivery in the community." There have been no enhancements or increase in hours at Service Ontario in Minden, located at 12698 Hwy. 35. Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott indicated she'd like to see a permanent site re-established in the village, but noted the mobile unit is a good compromise until then. "The mobile Service Ontario model has proven effective and has been well-received in similar communities. We are confident it will adapt seamlessly to meet the specific needs of our residents until a more permanent solution can be found," Scott said.

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COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person and with electronic participation. Meetings begin at 9:00 am unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- November 28 – Regular Council Meeting, Haliburton Council Chambers
- December 12 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal. Please note that there is only one meeting in December.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Check your home heating system. Regularly replace furnace filters. Keep all areas around the furnace clean and unobstructed. For preventative care, have your central heating system cleaned and serviced by a certified HVAC contractor once annually. Use of fireplace screen, guard, or glass doors to keep hot ash and sparks contained. When building a fire, strategically place logs on a metal grate at the back end of your fireplace; always use kindling to ignite the fire.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURE CENTRE

The Gallery will be closed from November 26 to December 4. We reopen on December 5 with an exhibit from our permanent collection, featuring André Lapine (1866-1952).

- The MHCC and the HCPL-Minden Branch are offering a free screening on December 5 at 1 pm of *Malartic (2024)*, a documentary by filmmaker Nicolas Paquet. Admission is free. No pre-registration is required.
- The UFO Craft Group is meeting in December on Friday the 6th and 20th from 1pm to 3pm.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Please be advised that tax and water/wastewater accounts will still need to be paid during a postal strike. Available payment methods include in-person cash and debit, online or telephone banking, and payment from your financial institution. Please visit our website for more details.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING AND CLOSED SESSION DECEMBER 3

Please take notice that there will be a Special Meeting of Council and Closed Session meeting on Tuesday, December 3rd, at 1:00 pm, in the Minden Hills Council Chambers (7 Milne Street).

The purpose of the closed session meeting is for education and training, pursuant to section 239(3.1) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, regarding community engagement.

For more information, please contact:
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Leave extra space when driving in icing conditions. Approach intersections slowly when they are covered with ice or snow. Watch out for black ice - a thin, nearly invisible coat of ice that can make the road look like shiny new asphalt. Pavement will look grey or white in the winter.

Businesses struggle with postal strike

By Mike Baker

County entrepreneur Sandi McElwain has endured a lot during her 25 years in business, but said the ongoing Canada Post strike is crippling her during what's supposed to be the busy season.

Through her company Why Not Collect It, McElwain sells vintage items and collectibles online. She had a storefront in Haliburton village, at 199 Highland St., from 2013 to 2018, but has been selling virtually on Ebay for the past six years.

Business has been good, she said – steadily climbing year-over-year to the point she now processes approximately 400 orders each month. Or at least she was – McElwain said her business has come to a complete standstill since Canada Post delivery workers went on strike Nov. 15.

With about 95 per cent of her clientele based in the U.S., McElwain said the Crown corporation is her only option for sending items south of the border. Most couriers charge expensive brokerage fees for international shipping, McElwain says, with that cost often more than the items people are buying.

"I'm 100 per cent stopped right now – I haven't earned any money for more than two weeks. I can't afford Christmas now. I have no idea how I'm going to pay my bills... I have no options at this point. I feel like I've had my livelihood taken away from me," McElwain said.

In an update Nov. 26, Canada Post said talks over a new deal had "ground to a halt." The company is considering its options after seeing little movement in negotiations on several key issues.

Company spokesperson Lisa Liu said the strike, now in its 14th day, is hurting Canadians.

"Canada Post now enters the busy Black Friday online shopping week effectively shut down... we are down nearly 10 million parcels since the strike began, which will only increase as it continues," Liu said. "The impacts continue to be felt across the country, hitting small businesses, charities and remote communities the most."

More than 55,000 postal workers nationwide are still striking. Doug Ford, representing Canadian Union of Postal Workers in Haliburton County, said picketers remain united, digging in as they fight for



Haliburton BIA president Brandon Nimigon said the postal strike is impacting businesses in the area, including his firm Century 21 Granite Realty Group. *File.*

improved pay, parity, and job security.

Workers have been without a contract since Dec. 31, 2023. Canada Post's latest offer included annual wage increases amounting to 11.5 per cent over the next four years, while also including protections for defined benefit and pension plans for current employees.

Ford said the contract wanted to create a two-tiered pay scale for employees, which the union is against. He also wants to hear more about Canada Post's plans to transition to a seven-day delivery system, which the company says it needs to do to compete with companies like Amazon.

Haliburton BIA president Brandon Nimigon said he's heard some businesses are struggling through the strike – commercial operations that rely on Canada Post for products are impacted, so too companies looking to advertise ahead of Black Friday

and the holidays.

"I know some businesses got flyers printed, paid for this big promo and now they're not going out. It's the worst time for this to happen, because a lot of businesses rely on the flyers to bring people in over the holidays," Nimigon said.

He's seen some issues at his firm Century 21 Granite Realty Group – traditionally, the company mails out cheques paying for services, and for getting things like deposits where they need to be. Nimigon said his company has transitioned to online payments, which has been a big headache.

With an online database of about 6,000 items, McElwain hopes to be back selling soon. It's more than just her business at stake – she stays home to care for her elderly father and autistic daughter every day. If the strike stretches much longer, she says she'll

be forced to go out and look for another job.

"I don't really have a backup plan. I keep thinking 'tomorrow is going to be the day'. I feel completely caught in the middle – sitting by, watching my savings drain away," she said.

Even if the strike were to end soon, McElwain is worried she's lost some customers for good. She's had eight orders that have already been posted cancelled over the past 10 days, another 12 items stuck in transit, and 48 more at home waiting to be shipped.

"Even if they get back up and running tomorrow, it's going to take weeks to get things going again, to get through the backlog. My stuff isn't making it to the U.S. for Christmas, so I'm screwed either way," she said.

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ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS NEWS**Cemetery plans approved**

Algonquin Highlands council has ratified a new layout for the proposed green burial section coming to St. Stephen's Cemetery next spring, with the space to boast 156 plots.

Deputy clerk Sarah Hutson told council Nov. 21 the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) had weighed in on plans, tentatively approved Nov. 7, stipulating that all grave sites be located at least 4.57 metres, or 15 feet, away from any building. She said the BAO requested the township apply that marker to property lines too.

"Because of that, if we didn't make any alterations, the previously proposed layout would impact neighbouring properties to the north and east," Hutson said.

Staff developed a new layout that's similar to the old one, removing laneways between plot rows to squeeze in the same number of grave sites as previously proposed. The lanes were designed to give staff access to plots and store equipment when preparing for burial, but Hutson said there would now be enough space for that around the perimeter of the section, given the 15-foot buffer.

Council also signed off on bylaw changes Hutson said were necessary to accommodate suggestions made by the Haliburton County Master Gardeners, which is partnering with the township to beautify the space.

While the township initially wasn't going to maintain the section, instead choosing to allow native plants to reclaim plot sections, HCMG representative Carolyn Langdon said earlier this month any new saplings planted

at the site will need to be watered. She also suggested keeping up with mowing and clearing overgrown non-natives.

Council reserved the right to make any decisions moving forward relating to ground cover and planting plans, though authorized staff to work collaboratively with HCMG on execution. The site plan was approved unanimously.

Rec rates upped

The cost to visit Algonquin Highlands' recreational facilities and make use of township equipment and services is going up next year, with a three per cent "inflation-related" increase to parks, recreation, and trails fees approved last week.

Department head Chris Card said the hike would impact ski trail permits, equipment loans, camping fees, facility rentals, arena membership rates, and sports registration. He said there would also be increased fees for people visiting the Dorset Scenic Tower.

The township has also upped the age for senior discounts, from 55 to 60.

Coun. Sabrina Richards asked if staff were still working towards establishing different user fees for residents and non-residents – Card said yes, but he's waiting to hear how that would impact the software systems the township uses to collect money. He plans to bring more information to a future meeting.

Committee disbanded

Council voted to officially disband the township's recreation committee at the

meeting, citing poor turnout.

Mayor Liz Danielsen said the committee had only two public members – the municipality's terms of reference stipulate there should be a minimum of four, with at least one representative from Stanhope, Dorset, and Oxtongue Lake. Coun. Julia Shortreed and Sabrina Richards were council representatives.

Danielsen expressed frustration over the committee's inability to pull together tree lighting ceremonies in the three main hubs – staff and other councillors stepped forward to fill the void. Staff are also assisting with organizing the Dorset Snowball, scheduled for Feb. 14 and 15, 2025.

The mayor suggested council come up with ideas for attracting new members in the hopes of re-establishing the committee next year.

"I sincerely regret having to [do this] but there have been some challenges and the reality is the committee is not functioning as we'd hoped it would," Danielsen said.

Read all about it

There will be new monthly newsletters available on the township's 'Let's Connect' forum updating residents about important municipal news.

Communications coordinator Chad Ingram said the feature will be updated in the second week of each month, capturing key talking points from council meetings, promoting upcoming events, and shining a light on good news stories from around the community.

The newsletter debuted this month with



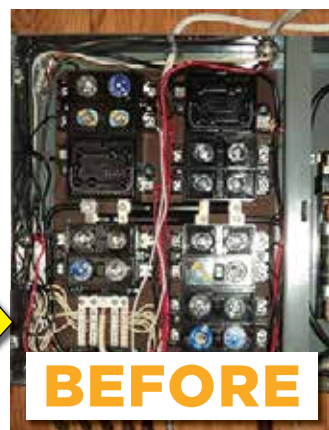
The Haliburton County Master Gardeners will assist with beautifying the new green burial section at St. Stephen's Cemetery. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

snippets from a recent Algonquin Highlands Fire Department awards night, information on the green burial section coming to St. Stephen's Cemetery, and including links to the Haliburton County Waste Wizard for garbage disposal and recycling tips and a new municipal Q&A forum.

It can be found at letsconnectalgonquinhighlands.ca. (Algonquin Highlands news compiled by Mike Baker).

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Affordable housing still likely

Continued from page 1

several angles.

"I'm confident the wait will be worth it. We're piloting a really exciting partnership model here and I will be delighted when the outside world looks at what we accomplish and say, as they did with the community bond raise, 'wow, who'd have thought a little community like that could do something that creative?'" Martin said.

Wilson has also initiated a planting plan to re-naturalize currently cleared areas within the 30-metre buffer from Grass Lake and a man-made pond on the property. That work has already begun, said Wilson, who has hired Greenwerx Garden Design to lead the project.

It was also agreed that there will be no pedestrian path installed on Peninsula Road, no fence constructed at or near the high water mark, while Wilson will also contribute \$5,000 towards water quality sampling and analysis on Grass Lake. He said there would be no further dredging or removal of native aquatic vegetation in the land below the high water mark.

There's also an agreement with Haliburton Veterinary Services to address any potential effects the new development's water supply may have on the business.

With Dysart and Haliburton County councils already signing off on official plan and zoning bylaw amendments, and the OLT hearing in the rearview mirror, Wilson said he can finally see light at the end of the tunnel.

"I want to get out of this... my objective is to wrap this up in the next three or four years," he said.

Friends group reacts

Carolyn Langdon, Lynda Williams, Catherine Swift, and Don Ross have been behind the FGL movement since August 2021. In a release to the media this week, they said they were satisfied with the settlement.

"We are pleased that we have been able to reach this agreement with Harburn Holdings. This significant reduction in residential units, from 88 to [38], will help to preserve



Harburn Holdings owner Paul Wilson said he plans to sell lots overlooking Grass Lake after having a development proposal ratified by the Ontario Land Tribunal Nov. 25. *File.*

the wetland environment to a much greater degree than the original proposal would have allowed," Ross said.

Swift said, going forward, the Friends group intends to "closely monitor" work in the area to ensure compliance with Dysart and County regulations and the settlement agreement.

They also plan to assess the water quality of Grass Lake over the next five years.

"Any development on this site will not be positive for Grass Lake, so it is important we establish a water quality testing regime...

before, during and after development," Swift said.

Langdon said she will continue to lobby for more native vegetation along the shoreline to further protect the lake.

As far as Wilson is concerned, Monday's settlement drew a line under the situation.

"We negotiated in good faith – nobody gets everything they want in a settlement. I gave up 50 residential units, but I know some [FGL members] still aren't happy... at the end of the day, you shake hands and we go on with life," Wilson said.

A MESSAGE FROM



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Notice Tariff of Fees

Notice is hereby provided that the Council of the County of Haliburton will be reviewing and considering amendments to the Tariff of Fees By-law-4145 at the Council Meeting to be held on December 11, 2024.

The agenda for the above noted meeting date can be viewed online at <http://haliburton.civicweb.net>. Meeting to commence at 9:00 a.m.

Gary Dyke, CAO/County Clerk
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Fax: (705) 286-4829



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TheHighlander

Published by The Highlander Newspaper Limited

OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Not without its challenges

Today marks the end of our series on the Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) in Haliburton County.

And while much of the series shares the success of the partnership - between Ontario Provincial Police, the Canadian Mental Health Association Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge (CMHA HKPR) and community partners – we cannot sign off without talking about the challenges and threats to the program.

The first is staffing. The reason the OPP portion of the program was delayed for years was insufficient staffing at the Minden OPP station. While there is now a full-time, permanent officer in the role, that can change. Same with the CMHA HKPR. Staff come and go. Leaves of absence are common. For this project to continue to succeed, it cannot be one or two personalities tasked with its success. It must continue with a dedicated person in perpetuity. In other words, if Const. Joel Imbeau is reassigned, or becomes burned out, there has to be a plan to replace him. Same with the CMHA mental health worker.

The second is funding. While we know CMHA has annual funding for the MCRT, we do not know if it will remain in place forever. And it does not appear that the OPP has a pot of money when emergencies pop up. That became patently aware when

Imbeau organized the Eric Nystedt Memorial Golf Tournament so he could raise money to give back to community partners that assist him on a regular basis.

The third is long waiting lists for people with mental health issues or addictions to get help. We've heard youth can wait seven to eight months to be seen. There are months-long waits for mental health, addiction and rehabilitation facilities.

Another major issue in our area is transportation. The only bus service that used to run between Haliburton and the Greater Toronto Area is no longer operating. In some cases, OPP officers have to drive clients out of town for services. I heard a recent story of an OPP officer driving a client to Orillia to get them on a bus to a treatment centre. In other instances, they have to rely on lengthy and expensive taxi rides. It could take hours for that trip to happen, when a person is in crisis.

And, while we do have the YWCA emergency shelter in Minden, it is for women and children fleeing abuse.

People in crisis, or facing homelessness, are looking at long commutes to out-of-town services. If a tenant is evicted, for example, the closest short-term homeless shelter is A Place Called Home in Lindsay.

And through it all runs a red ribbon of provincial government bureaucracy, or a lack

of funding. It is disheartening to see the MCRT have to go begging cap-in-hand to community churches, food banks, heat banks and others. It is unconscionable that it can take weeks and months to get some clients properly supported.

While the program has seen many wins, there have also been disappointments. Some people do not consent to getting help. There have been suicides. Further, we have more people living in the Highlands and there have been more calls for service for all EMS, police, fire and ambulance. And the cases are just getting more and more complex. Addiction and mental health issues have remained high post-COVID.

Perhaps the biggest challenge is stigma. But we hope that a few people in the community have read this series, and, so, when an OPP officer and CMHA HKPR mental health worker show up at your door – don't be afraid to give consent to get the help you need.

**By Lisa Gervais**

NATURE'S CALLING

November traditions

When I hear the word November, I think of hunting season.

This year, I headed to Apsley with three other ladies for four days to participate in rifle season. If you are going to hunt, please check your regulations to ensure they are for the WMU you will hunt. It is essential to know the rules.

Unfortunately, we did not harvest a deer this year, but we enjoyed making memories and spending lots of time outdoors. This is my favourite part of hunting: making memories. I was born and raised in a family that hunted, and I have many memories of my father and grandfathers.

It has been many years since I had the opportunity to hunt with my dad. Hopefully, I will have the chance to do this more in the next few years.

My dad had a great year this year. It has been a few years since he harvested a deer, but this year, he shot a five-point buck; to say he was excited was an understatement. The last time my dad harvested a buck was 2009 when he harvested a 10-point buck,

and before that, in 2007, when he killed a seven-point buck. I was so happy for my dad. This year, at my dad's camp, there were four generations of hunters; this is what hunting is all about, the traditions, the family, and making memories.

I hunt, fish, and spend so much time outdoors because of the deep-rooted traditions passed down from my dad and grandfathers, who ignited my passion. Their stories of early morning excursions and the bond forged in nature resonate with me, reminding me of the lessons they imparted about patience, respect for wildlife, and the importance of family. I look up to my dad for his expertise in the field and the values he embodies - integrity, perseverance, and stewardship of the land. Through these experiences, I feel connected to both my heritage and the natural world, and I am grateful for the legacy they have shared with me.

Family traditions play a vital role in preserving our heritage, connecting us to our ancestors and the values they cherished.

By passing down stories, customs, and beliefs, we create a bridge between generations, ensuring that the lessons of the past continue to resonate in our lives. Ultimately, family traditions enrich our experiences and strengthen our bonds, reminding us of the importance of unity and shared history.

I feel incredibly lucky to have been given the chance to have traditions passed down to me. They enrich my life and have connected me deeply to my family's history and values. I am also extremely fortunate to be able to pass these traditions down to my daughter and grandchildren.

I want to express my gratitude to my mom and dad for the traditions and values they've instilled in me, as they have shaped who I am and continue to guide me.

I love you both.

**By Toni Cooper**

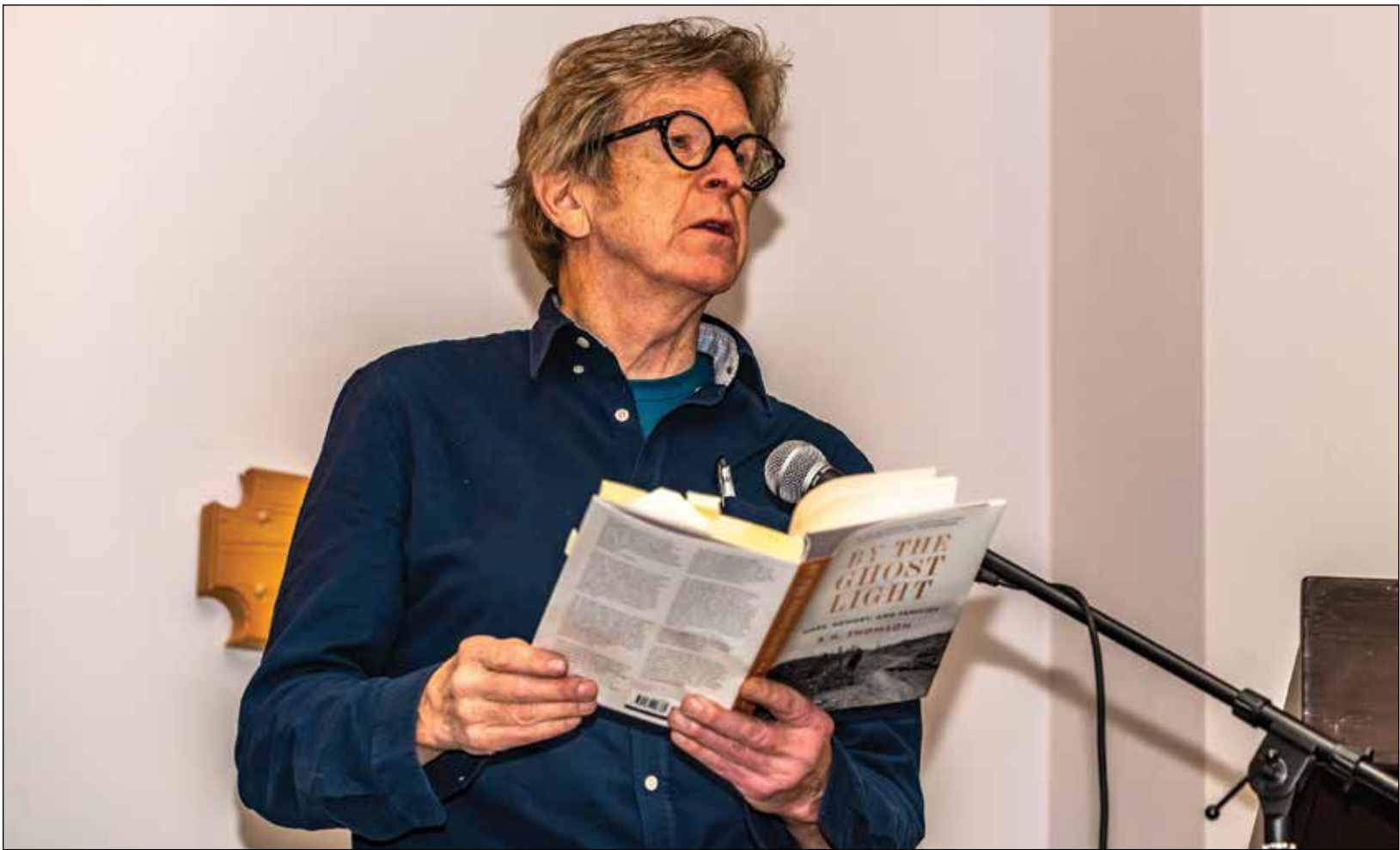
Corrections: In the story 'Report: opioid emergencies down in County' we incorrectly identified Dane Record as co-author of a report compiled by Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit analyzing the impacts of the drug poisoning crisis in the region. The report was co-written by Kate Hall and Vidya Sunil. In the Nov. 14 *Highlander*, page 12, we incorrectly identified Paul Sisson as a war veteran. He is not. *The Highlander* apologizes for the errors.



The magic of Christmas

Haliburton’s Christmas tree lighting and Santa Claus parade ushered in the festive season Nov. 22. Hundreds lined both sides of Highland Street to see the extensive parade, with floats, marching bands, dance troupes and, of course, Mr. Claus.

Top left: Lindsay Pipes and Drums marched down Highland Street. Top right: A young lady smiles and waves to the crowd. Middle: Three friends sit together and wave to the crowd from their float. Above: The Mouse Queen looms over the crowd. Right: Ol’ St. Nick waving to the kids of all ages.
Photos by Justin Belanger.



Mortals gather for ghostly talk

The Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library hosted Canadian actor and author RH Thomson at the Haliburton Legion Nov. 24. He came to speak about his new book *By the Ghost Light*. Already a national bestseller, the book focuses on his great uncle's experiences in the First World War, was interpreted through letters that were sent home from overseas. The 'ghost light' traditionally was a lantern placed on the stage after a theatrical performance for safety, and to be able to navigate the stage, without falling off it in the dark. It was also to provide a light for spirits to be able to make their presence seen as they danced and performed on stage after all the mortals had gone home for the night.

RH Thomson reads from his new book. *Photo by Justin Belanger.*

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OPENS
JULY
1

It all starts with the sixteenth letter of the alphabet, P. The letter which speaks for itself or, when spelled out, pee, is the central theme to this fast-paced musical, **Urinetown**. As a metaphor for the over-arching intrusion of big corporations into all aspects of our lives, the plucky cast of citizens fights back against the UGC Company. With music and lyrics by Mark Hollmann, and book and lyrics by Greg Kotis the cast makes its case for human rights with music, humour, and boycotts as several love stories emerge from the mayhem.

Opens July 1st for seven performances, including three matinees. Recommended for ages 13 and up.*



OPENS
JULY
9

Outstanding musicianship and energetic staging that will leave you calling for more - **The Fitzgeralds** have been dazzling audiences for years. We are delighted to include **The Fitzgeralds** in this summer's program, which will feature their lightning-fast fiddling and some equally mesmerizing footwork.

Opens July 9th for three performances including one matinee. Recommended for ages eight and up.*



OPENS
JULY
15

For our third show, we turn to the production which opened the Festival 25 years ago, the award-winning **Salt-Water Moon**. This quintessential Canadian play by David French, set in Newfoundland, eight years after the end of the First World War, is a touching love story with the conflicted young lovers over-lain by the memory of the horrors of the war, changing roles for women in society and technological advances. The story of **Salt-Water Moon** resonates as strongly today as it did when we first presented it on our stage in the summer of 2000.

Opens July 15th for seven performances, including two matinees. Recommended for ages 13 and up.*



OPENS
JULY
15

Accusations, mistaken identities, and romances run wild in this traditional, laugh-out-loud farce, **Drinking Habits** by Tom Smith. Two nuns at the Sisters of Perpetual Sewing have been secretly making wine to keep the convent's doors open, but Paul and Sally, reporters and former fiancées, are hot on their trail as they go undercover as a nun and priest. Wine and secrets are inevitably spilled as everyone tries to preserve the convent and reconnect with lost loves.

Opens July 27th for six performances, including two matinees. **This production contains mature themes.** Recommended for ages 13 and up.*



OPENS
AUG
3

The 2025 summer season closes with **Feeling Bublé**, a Michael Bublé Tribute that captures the feel of a Michael Bublé concert. Jay Davis nails the sound and moves of Michael Bublé while creating a warm and light-hearted atmosphere. Audiences clap and sing along. Be a part of this feel-good performance of music featuring Michael Bublé's greatest hits performed by Jay Davis and his world-class jazz band.

Opening August 3rd for four performances, including one matinee. Recommended for ages 13 and up.*

Stuart Baker teacher scoops provincial prize

By Mike Baker

Elementary school teacher Krista Patterson routinely embraces one key principle she feels helps her connect with students on a deeper level, improving results inside several County classrooms.

The Grade 1-2 teacher at Stuart Baker Elementary School was recently presented with an Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) achievement award, recognizing outstanding, exemplary and unique contributions to students and the wider school community. It's awarded to one Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) teacher each year.

The honour was for Patterson's work at Cardiff Elementary School, where she taught from 2016 until September – most recently in the Kindergarten class.

"I'm a pretty positive person, so I try to bring that to my teaching. I'm always approaching everything from a strength-based lens, so looking at what the students can do rather than what they can't do. Over time, you get better at helping the child do their best," Patterson said.

Creating an environment where students are treated firmly and fairly, with equity always top of mind, has been the difference for Patterson. She's realized, too, that to truly reach all students takes a variety of learning mediums and methods. Patterson said she's constantly thinking about ways to keep her classes exciting and engaging.

She taught students with a wide-range of abilities – most were at regular grade level, while others were non-verbal or on the autism spectrum, requiring a different approach.

"Lesson planning often looks like 'OK, other students may be able to access or show their learning, but what about those who don't use words? You have visual learners, auditory learners, kinesthetic learners. So, I make sure I have a piece of everything..."



Krista Patterson (centre) was recognized with an OPSBA award pictured with Esther Childs and Wes Hahn. *Submitted.*

to try to incorporate pictures, songs and movement into things.

"Not everybody can learn from sitting and listening," Patterson said.

When dealing with behaviour, the teacher has found success implementing a reward system encouraging kids to stay on the straight and narrow. Setting clear expectations, being consistent, and having an instructional routine has helped curb issues before they become a major problem.

One of Patterson's strengths – and why she was singled out as the sole OPSBA award recipient board wide – is what she does outside of the classroom. TLDSB trustee Esther Childs, at an Oct. 22 meeting, said

Patterson was nominated by a parent in the Cardiff community for going above and beyond with students.

Asked what that entails, Patterson said she routinely connects families with supports in the community, such as Point in Time and Five Counties children's services. She's been involved with various collection efforts, gathering winter clothes for children in need.

The teacher has also donated books to families and made arrangements with food banks in the area to ensure there's always food at students' homes.

Patterson is also a prolific learner, routinely registering in professional development courses to improve her teaching methods.

She completed a fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) workshop so she could better support a student living with the disability. She's also taken several special needs-based classes.

Born and raised in Haliburton County, Patterson said she feels proud to be making a difference in her community every day.

"It feels nice to know my families have felt supported, because that's always one of my main goals. This has been a very humbling experience, knowing this award happened because someone who has trusted me with their child thinks I helped, it means so much," Patterson said.

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GARDENING FOR LIFE

Reconciling life at Grenville Christian College

By Lisa Gervais

Sarah Patrick recalls the headlines “looming ominously” on the front pages of *The Globe and Mail* in September and October of 2007.

They included, ‘Born into the abusive grip of a cult’; ‘light sessions and school’s dark past’ and ‘apology for hurt and pain’.

In her book, *Binding Shame: Life in a Cult of Obedience*, the Algonquin Highlands resident says she could not believe her eyes at the time. She was intensely panicked as she read the articles, in which students she had once taught at Grenville Christian College, near Brockville, related “horrors” of abuse they’d experienced at the school where she’d lived, taught, and before that, been a student for four years.

Fast forward to November 2023, and former students of Grenville Christian College won a class-action lawsuit against the college for physical, psychological and sexual abuse.

Patrick started writing about her experiences at the Community of Jesus-inspired institution when *The Globe* broke the stories. She said it began with her recounting her boarding school antics. Then, she wrote about the ‘light sessions’ at Grenville. Patrick describes those in her book as, “where an individual’s faults were publicly and humiliatingly exposed, eliciting a forced confession and change of behaviour.”

She had professor at Metropolitan Toronto University, and author, Sarah Henstra read the work. She said Henstra advised her,

“there’s a real story here” but she needed to dig a little deeper.

“But it was incredibly difficult to write about it,” Patrick says. “My biggest driver for wanting to write was to try to bring these two sides of me together; the person who’d been abused by them, and then the person who became part of the abusive system.”

She said writing the book has been a type of therapy.

Patrick said she was raised in “the tough love” era, and felt Grenville staff were paid to do a job. “At the time, I hated it, but never would have thought it was abuse.” It is only now, as an adult, she concedes there were “aspects of that discipline that were really bad... I can acknowledge that as abuse; public shaming, ostracization, beatings, light sessions...”

She said she was never sexually abused or beaten.

Later becoming a teacher, Patrick recalls she was at times “angry” because her students had freedoms she did not as a pupil, “so I took it out on them.”

Asked about the worst thing she ever did, Patrick said she outed a gay student to the headmaster. “I was worried about getting in trouble for not exposing it... that I would be corrected and disciplined myself, and that kid was disciplined heavily for it.”

However, she said she had been brainwashed from the time she was a student, despite having rebelled and left the college at times.



Sarah Patrick with her book, *Binding Shame: Life in a Cult of Obedience*. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

Nonetheless, she views the book as an apology to former students she may have hurt.

“I can’t please everybody. It’s not going to be enough. I had to write it for me and let the chips fall where they may. I really wanted to bring these two parts of myself together. I was hoping the book would solve that problem and it hasn’t because they are two divergent sides of me and I’m understanding them more and I’m starting to accept it’s OK that it’s not completely reconciled with me.”

Asked about her relationship with God today, Patrick said it’s taken a long time but she has started as a new Christian with

a Baptist church - not that she ever blamed God.

“I put my faith in people and not in God and that’s how it went sideways. People are so fallible. I’m not a bad person... things have happened to me... I didn’t cause this to happen and I didn’t deserve it and nobody deserves abuse or perceived abuse.”

Patrick adds living in the Highlands has been healing for her, as “there is a peace here I hadn’t experienced in my life.”

The book is available at Amazon and Master’s Book Store in Haliburton.

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Celebrating the undergrads

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) hosted its annual undergraduate scholarship and awards ceremony Nov. 21 in the cafeteria. A scholarship council headed by Melissa Stephens chooses deserving students from the previous scholastic year. Awards go to students with highest marks, and bursaries to students meeting special requirements and judged to be most deserving. The committee factors in financial need, general behaviour and involvement in school activities. The HHSS scholarship fund presents more than 200 awards to undergraduates and graduates every year. Eighty-five come from an endowment fund. Others are given by businesses, service clubs and individuals. Last Thursday, all students in Grades 9, 10, and 11 who achieved honours were recognized.

All of the award winners following the Nov. 21 assembly.
Photo by Lisa Gervais.

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The 11th annual Jolly Jog took place this past Sunday, Nov. 24 at the Haliburton Highlands Museum. Dozens of runners, walkers and even dogs dressed up in their best Christmas costumes to make their way through either a 1.5 km, 3 km or 5 km course through the Sculpture Forest. Prior to the jog, they gave out prizes for best dressed and those in the holiday spirit.

Top: A wonderful turnout on a beautiful day for a jog through the forest. Middle left: Two people enjoying a dog walk through the Sculpture Forest. Middle: Good ol' fashioned outdoor family fun. Middle right: A young Grinch won the best dressed child award. Above: And they're off! Runners make their way towards the course. Right: A happy group of buddies just before the run. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*



A little country to the County

After Haliburton's Santa Claus parade, people attended a Christmas concert with Canadian country artists Leah Daniels and Beverley Mahood. Originally planned for the A.J. LaRue Arena, there was a last-minute venue change to Castle Antiques. Daniels and Mahood sang some classic Christmas songs, accompanied by their two bandmates, on guitar and keyboard.

Top: Leah Daniels and Beverley Mahood sing with their band. Left: Daniels plays a fun song with her ukulele and Kazoo. Above: Daniels and Mahood singing.
Photos by Justin Belanger.

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DAYS OF
SAVINGS



Getting crafty at Stanhope

The Stanhope Firefighters Hall hosted a Christmas market this past Sunday, Nov. 24. Holiday shoppers were delighted to see artisan creations from across the County.

Top left: Sherri-Lynn Barry and Hunter Shaw with their creations. Top right: Brian Keller stands proudly in front of his woodworking creations. Inset: Stained glass Santa and star. Above: Keli Schmidt of the Haliburton Clothing Co. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*

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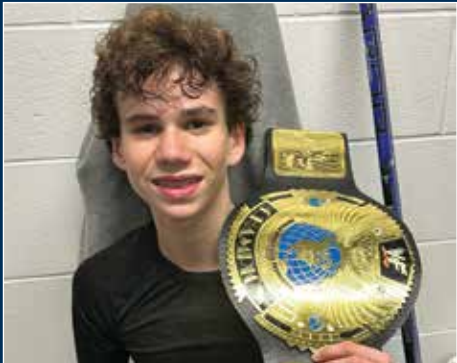
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DUNCAN EVANS-FOCKLER

Demonstrated true grit and battled through illness to play in the final two games of the tournament.



Jacob Sutton scrambles for the puck in front of the net. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Storm 'gave their all'

The Highland Storm's U15 Pepper Mill Steak & Pasta House team showcased its grit, skill, and unwavering determination at the prestigious Silver Stick tournament this past weekend in Minden.

Although the Storm faced elimination after two hard-fought losses on Saturday, they left an indelible mark with their spirited performance, reflecting the heart and resilience that define their community.

Coaches Tom Taylor, Graham Borgdorff and Jaime Lloyd expressed immense pride in their team's effort, emphasizing their camaraderie and dedication.

"These players worked incredibly hard and gelled together as a unit. They faced some strong teams, but their effort and sportsmanship stood out," Taylor remarked. "Each player gave their all and the way they supported each other on and off the ice is a testament to the strength of this team."

Throughout the tournament, several players delivered standout performances that underscored the team's depth and talent.

The tournament provided valuable lessons and experience for the Storm, who faced stiff competition from some of the top teams in the region. While the results didn't favour them in the standings, the players walked

away with a renewed sense of determination and a deeper bond as a team.

Parents, fans, and members of the Haliburton County community who attended the games were unanimous in their praise. The Storm's performance was not just about wins and losses; it was about representing their township with integrity and passion. The players demonstrated the values instilled in them by their coaches and community - hard work, respect, and sportsmanship.

As the team looks forward to the remainder of their season, the lessons learned from this tournament will undoubtedly fuel their drive to improve and succeed. "This is just one step in our journey," Taylor said. "I know these players will take this experience and build on it. They've shown what they're capable of, and I couldn't be prouder of them."

The Haliburton Storm U15 team may not have brought home a championship trophy, but they certainly brought home something more valuable: the respect and pride of their community. Their performance serves as a reminder that success is measured not just by the scoreboard, but by the heart and character shown along the way. *Submitted.*

SCORE

BOARD

Nov. 18

- U15 LL The Pepper Mill Steak & Pasta House vs Manvers 5-3 W

Nov. 20

- U15 Rep Haliburton Timbermart vs Sturgeon 4-4 T

Nov. 21

- U15 LL The Pepper Mill Steak & Pasta House vs Sturgeon 3-2 W

Nov. 22

- U13 LL Curry Chevrolet vs Manvers 7-0 W
- U18 LL Tom Prentice & Sons vs Sturgeon 3-0 W

Nov. 23

- U15 Rep Haliburton Timbermart vs Lindsay 7-0 W

- U11 LL Carquest Minden vs Manvers 10-4 L

Nov. 24

- U13 LL Curry Chevrolet vs Millbrook 5-2 W
- U11 LL Carquest Minden vs Sturgeon 4-1 L
- U13 Rep Cheryl Smith RE/MAX took home silver at the Barrie Cutting Edge Classic Tournament



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Huskies forward Deandres De Jesus had an assist in Monday's 4-2 road win over the Cobourg Cougars. *File.*

Huskies take down Cougars in road win

By Mike Baker

Three new additions played key roles as the Haliburton County Huskies got one over fierce rival the Cobourg Cougars Nov. 25, with the hometown team earning a confidence-boosting 4-2 win.

The result stopped a three-game losing skid for the Huskies, who have dropped to fourth in the OJHL East Division with 36 points from 26 games. The team has gone 18-8 on the season.

Head coach and general manager Ryan Ramsay lauded the impact of forwards Vincent Gazquez, William Stewart, and Stefan Forgione – who all landed with the team last week.

Nineteen-year-old forward Gazquez joined Nov. 19 from the Collingwood Blues after putting up five points in 17 games with the West Division frontrunners. The Huskies were busy again Nov. 24, acquiring Forgione and Stewart from the King Rebellion in exchange for rookie Sam Black.

The 5'10" Forgione spent parts of two seasons in the Ontario Hockey League (OHL) between 2021 and 2024, appearing in 28 games for the Mississauga Steelheads and North Bay Battalion. Big-bodied winger Stewart, a U.S. national, played two years with the OHL's Niagara IceDogs before appearing in 13 games for the expansion Rebellion this OJHL season.

"I think all the new guys looked really good... Forgione is a guy I know and have liked for a while; we specifically targeted him. Stewart is a good player, he was off to a slow start in King but I have some contacts in Niagara who spoke highly of him. I watched a lot of film on him and we think he can help us," Ramsay said. "Vinny is someone who, if you look at his track record in rep hockey, he's always produced. He was the odd man out in Collingwood, but he's come in, had a great attitude and practiced really well. We're happy with all three pick-ups."

The Huskies went into Monday's match-up buoyed by Ramsay's return and that of seven players, who were part of the 'Battle of Ontario' all-star festivities in Smiths Falls Nov. 19 and 20.

Co-captain Ty Petrou, fresh off scoring in the all-star finals for the winning Team Rodrigues – coached by Ramsay, got things started early in Cobourg, scoring his 12th goal of the season 3:46 in, assisted by Forgione.

It didn't take long for Stewart to get acclimated to his new

surroundings, notching his first in blue and white at 13:10, set up by Kaiden Thatcher and Carson Littlejohn.

Outshooting their rival 11-4 in the first frame, Ramsay said it was one of the team's most complete periods of the season.

"We played really well – Cobourg just didn't have an answer for us," Ramsay said.

Chase Del Colombo made it a three-goal game early in the second, scoring his third of the year from Alex Bradshaw and Isaac Larmand.

Beckett Ewart brought Cobourg back into it a couple minutes later, but the Huskies were relentless on the forecheck, causing multiple turnovers that tilted the ice. Bradshaw scored the team's fourth halfway through the middle frame, assisted by Deandres De Jesus and Littlejohn.

There was some penalty trouble in the back half of the period, with the Huskies playing 10-plus minutes shorthanded. Noah Lodoen was given a two-minute minor at 10:25, with Forgione earning simultaneous two-minute minor instigator/aggressor and five-minute major fighting penalties. He was ejected from the game alongside Thatcher, who was tossed for unsportsmanlike conduct.

Tyson Rismond took a two-minute penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct at 15:47, Bradshaw served a two-minute bench/coach penalty at 16:16, and Nathan Poole was ejected at 17:09 for unsportsmanlike conduct.

The team put on a penalty killing clinic, giving up a solo powerplay strike from Nathan Whipkey at 17:09.

Goaltender Carter Nadon saved all four shots he faced in the third, closing out the win.

"We had to put up with a lot of very questionable calls, but it's good the guys stayed the course and picked up the win," Ramsay said. "We've not been where we wanted to be, we had a bad spell before the 'All-Star' break. We were lacking some depth in our lineup, which we addressed this week."

"We've got a team now where we can run more lines during difficult situations. We've got powerplay specialists, guys that excel on the penalty kill – every role is just as important as the other, so it's good that guys are stepping up now," he added.

The Huskies are back in action Nov. 29 on the road in Pickering. They'll be back in Minden Nov. 30 to take on the Aurora Tigers. Puck drop is 4 p.m.



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Boreal to take listeners on complete journey

By Lisa Gervais

Boreal, a Canadian folk trio featuring Tannis Slimmon, Katherine Wheatley, and Angie Nussey, is coming to Highland Hills United Church in Minden Nov. 29.

It's not the first time the band, or its members independently, have been to the County. Boreal last played in the big white tent at Abbey Gardens. In fact, Abbey Gardens is hosting Friday night's concert.

With a late November concert, Nussey is asked if they will be doing Christmas songs. "We have to infuse some of the shows with a few Christmas songs but they're really fun ones," she replies.

They recently released their new single and video, *Shepherd of the Road*. The song, which tells the story of a truck driver who helped lead Nussey home during a 'white knuckle' drive through a snowstorm, marks the trio's first single since 2022. Inspired by the real-life experience, it's a heartfelt tribute to the kindness of strangers and has quickly become a fan favourite.

Shepherd of the Road is the first track on the album *Winterbirds*, a follow-up to the trio's 2014 debut album *Winter's Welcome*. The latest album is produced by Slimmon, Wheatley and Nussey and features musicians Lewis Melville, Sam Cino, Brian Kobayakawa and Tyler Wagler.

The band says it has been over a year in the making.

Speaking to the single, Nussey said she is surprised at the response. "We'd had that in



Tannis Slimmon, Katherine Wheatley, and Angie Nussey are Boreal. Photo by Trevor Slimmon.

our back pocket for five years and one thing led to another and we didn't release it. But we knew people liked it at the shows. A lot of people know a truck driver, or are related to a truck driver, and they know kindness. When you put those two topics together, all of a sudden, there's a lot of people that resonate with that song. It's nice."

As for the album, Nussey said, "while a chilly theme is still predominant on many of the songs, it's a collection that's intended to bring joy year-round. The music presents

a balance of soulful intensity and beautiful storytelling."

Nussey said the band loves playing in churches, since most were built with sound in mind with their tall ceilings.

Asked what Boreal will bring to town, Nussey added, "we're three distinctly different songwriters. It's almost like a variety show except we've each taken on each others' songs and done back-ups. Some songs you wouldn't know who wrote what, so I think part of it would be the teamwork.

The other piece is you don't just sit there and get the same kind of music all though the night. You basically go on a complete ride, complete journey of different things infused with each other... I'm really proud of this band. It's really interesting."

The church is at 21 Newcastle St., Minden. Doors open at 7 p.m. Concert starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$30 available online at abbeygardens.ca or in person at the Food Hub.

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EVENTS

Nov. 28
Arts Council Haliburton Highlands is welcoming submissions of stories for their joint project with CanoeFM: Story Circle. Appropriate-for-broadcast stories of less than 1,500 words will be considered. Submit ideas for review to storycircle22@gmail.com.

Nov. 28, 9 a.m.
The Trojan Horse Tour visits Haliburton County as part of a province-wide tour, organized by CUPE's Ontario Council of Hospital Unions and the Ontario Health Coalition, calling for an end to privatization of hospital surgeries and diagnostic tests. Join guest speakers Michael Hurley, president of OCHU-OPSEU, and Natalie Mehra, executive director of the Ontario Health Coalition, at Minden Town Hall at 9 a.m. and Head Lake Park in Haliburton at 1 p.m. For more information, contact Bonnie Roe at 705-457-6579.

Nov. 29, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Christmas luncheon at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, located at 7 Bobcaygeon Rd. in Minden. Soup, sandwiches, desserts, coffee and tea. By donation. All are welcome.

Nov. 29, 6 p.m.
Join the Township of Algonquin Highlands in celebrating the festive season with a community Christmas tree-lighting. The first of three events will take place outside the township office at 1123 North Shore Rd., with others planned for Dorset, at Lions Centennial Park, on Dec. 1 at 4 p.m., and the Oxtongue Lake Community Centre on Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. Each event will include carols, hot chocolate, and a visit from Santa Claus. Bring your own mug.

Nov. 30, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Holiday craft sale at Lloyd Watson Centre in Wilberforce (2249 Loop Rd.). Vendors will be selling great things, including Christmas items, gifts, and baked goods. Lunch will be available. For more information, contact Barb Schofield at 705-448-2598, or email wilberforcebarb@yahoo.ca.

Nov. 30, 7 to 11:30 p.m.
The 11th annual Highlands Christmas Shindig at the Haliburton Legion. In support of Fuel for Warmth, which supports families in need of support heating homes during winter. Tickets are \$30 in advance, available on Eventbrite.

Dec. 1, 3 p.m.
Highlands Festival Singers presents 'Wishing You a Merry Christmas', a concert directed by Melissa Stephens. Taking place at Haliburton United Church at 10 George Street. Tickets are \$20, available at Master's Book Store in Haliburton and the Minden Pharmasave. A second performance is happening Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. For children, youth and family packages email highlandsfestivalsingers@gmail.com.

Dec. 2, 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Do you have a story to tell about Haliburton County? Highlands Opera Community School wants to hear from you. Bring your stories to life on stage with singers, musical accompaniment and the magic of sets, costumes and lighting right here in the Highlands. Learn about the new year-long pilot 'Let's Make Opera!' at a taster at Haliburton Highlands Museum (66 Museum Rd.)

Dec. 5, 5 to 8 p.m.
Calling all ladies - SIRCH Community Services is hosting its annual artisan market alongside the Haliburton BIA ladies shopping night. Featuring 16 talented local artisans specializing in jewelry making, fiber art, woodwork, beeswax products, birdhouses, stained glass and more at the SIRCH Bistro. For more information, call 705-457-1742.

Have a non-profit event you want advertised?
email mike@thehighlander.ca.

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton weekly activities
Mondays: Bridge at 1 p.m. in the Schofield Room. Youth darts league starting soon, for ages 10 to 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the clubroom. All are welcome.
Tuesdays: League darts starting at 7 p.m. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30-9 p.m. between September and June.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, main hall. Bingo is back. There's a \$1,000 jackpot on the first Wednesday of the month.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. & ladies auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets \$2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards.
Saturdays: 50/50 draw 4 p.m. Tickets \$1 each, available in the Clubroom.
Clubroom hours: Mon closed, Tues 3-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m. & Sat 3-6 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 519 Cobocok Second Monday of the month: General meeting - 7:30 p.m.
Tuesdays: Euchre - 1 p.m. Open Darts - 7 p.m.
First Wednesday of the month: Big Buck Bid Euchre from 11 a.m. \$15 per person.
Saturdays: Meat Roll at 3 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce
Mon: 7 to 10 p.m.
Wed: 2 to 6 p.m.
Thurs: 2 to 6 p.m.
Fri: 2 to 11 p.m.
Sat: 2 to 9 p.m.
Sun: Special events only

Fish and chips Nov. 29, 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$15 for one piece of fish, or \$20 for two pieces.

Tree of Warmth: the legion is accepting donations of new mittens, scarves and hats. The donations will be provided to students at Wilberforce and Cardiff elementary schools.

Darts on Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30. From 7 to 10 p.m. Also Dec. 4, 11 and 18 from 2 to 7 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person.

Indoor cornhole on Dec. 5, 12, and 19 at 7 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person.

Wings and jam session Dec. 6 and 20, from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person.

Ladies Auxiliary breakfast Dec. 8 from 9 to 11 a.m. Cost is \$10 per person.

Seniors 55+ Christmas party Dec. 13. Call Denice Butler at 705-448-8865 to book.

Fish and chips Dec. 13 from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person.

Meat draw on Dec. 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 3 p.m.

New Year's Eve dance party Dec. 31. Cost is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. Food provided. Spot dance prizes available. From 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden
Monday - Thursday: Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' Tuesday.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541

Weekly activities:
Karaoke: call for dates
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m. Rug Hookers every second week.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

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COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT - NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING APPLICATIONS FOR MINOR VARIANCE

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Committee of Adjustment of the Township of Minden Hills will hold a Public Meeting on:

DATE: Monday, December 9, 2024

TIME: 9:30 AM

LOCATION: Hybrid Meeting (In-person and Electronic via Zoom)

Members of the public are welcome to watch the Committee of Adjustment meeting by joining YouTube at:
<https://www.youtube.com/@townshipofmindenhills4716>

Members of the public wishing to participate and make comment/speak at the Public Hearing must pre-register by emailing dsisson@mindenhills.ca by **Friday, December 6 before 4:00 PM** or by **attending and registering the morning of the meeting before 9:00 AM**. Participants registering after 9:00 AM will not be permitted into the public hearing.

Please note the live-stream link provided for each hearing will only be activated while Committee of Adjustment is in session.

The purpose of the Public Meeting will be to consider proposed Minor Variance applications **PLMV2024068** and **PLMV2024069** to the Township of Minden Hills Zoning By-law pursuant to Section 45 of the Planning Act as follows:

PLMV2024068: Part of Lot 12 Concession 14, Geographic Township of Snowdon; located at 1345 Shaws Lane, Canning Lake (See Key Map).



Purpose and Effect of the Application: The purpose of the application is to provide relief from the Township of Minden Hills Zoning By-law 06-10, as amended, to permit the development of a 22.30 sq.m (240 sq.ft) addition to the southeast side of the existing cottage. The effect of the application would be to permit an increase in the size of a building located in part within 15 m (49.3 ft) of the highwater mark (HWM), where an increase in size or height of a building or structure within 15 m (49.3 ft) of the HWM is otherwise not permitted.

PLMV2024069: Part Lot 20, Concession A, Geographic Township of Minden; located at 1378 Bobcaygeon Road (see Key Map).



Purpose and Effect of the Application: The purpose of the application is to provide relief from the Township of Minden Hills Zoning By-law 06-10, as amended, to permit the enlargement of the dwelling and to construct a new two-storey addition with a side porch. The effect of the application would be to permit an increase of the ground floor area of the building beyond the permitted 25% for non-complying buildings or structures.

Additional information regarding this application is available online at www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom. A copy of the complete application will be available for public inspection at the Township of Minden Hills Building and Planning Department by appointment only.

Input on the above noted application is welcome and encouraged. You can provide your input, either in support or opposition to the proposed minor variance, by making a written submission to the Township or by speaking at the Public Hearing. If you do not attend the Public Hearing, it may proceed in your absence and, except as otherwise provided in the Planning Act, you will not be entitled to any further notice in the proceedings.

To provide input in writing, or to request written notice of the decision, please contact the undersigned or e-mail adougherty@mindenhills.ca.

Any person or agency who is of the opinion that holding the hearing as an electronic hearing is likely to cause them significant prejudice, may make a submission to the undersigned, and if the Committee is satisfied that holding the hearing as an electronic hearing is likely to cause the party significant prejudice then the hearing will be re-scheduled as an oral hearing. If a person or agency does not make a submission to the Secretary-Treasurer prior to the electronic hearing, and the person or agency does not participate in the hearing in accordance with this Notice, then the Committee may proceed without the party's participation and the party will not be entitled to any further notice in the proceeding.

If you are interested in participating in the hearing you are strongly encouraged to contact the undersigned prior to the meeting date with any questions you may have and/or to provide any material for the Committee's consideration at the hearing.

Accessibility: The Township of Minden Hills is committed to providing services as set out in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. If you have accessibility needs and require alternative formats or other accommodations, please contact the undersigned.

Privacy Disclosure: As one of the purposes of the Planning Act is to provide for planning processes that are open and accessible, all written submissions, documents, correspondence, e-mails or other communications (including your name and address) form part of the public record and may be disclosed/made available by the Township as deemed appropriate, including anyone requesting such information. Please note that by submitting any of this information, you are providing the Township with your consent to use and disclose this information as part of the planning process.

Amanda Dougherty
Manager of Planning Services
Township of Minden Hills
705-286-1260 x506
adougherty@mindenhills.ca

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13	A	L	A	M	B	14	H	U	S	K	I	E	S
15	C	I	V	I	L	16	S	E	R	V	A	N	T
17	R	A	V	E	S	18	C	R	A	P	19	E	E
21	A	R	E	A	R	23	M	I	L	D	24	S	A
26	B	O	O	T	I	27	E	28	P	U	S	S	Y
29	I	N	I	30	P	L	A	T	E	L	E	T	
35	D	I	L	L	P	I	C	K	L	E	C	H	I
40	A	L	E	R	T	E	S	T	41	C	I	T	
42	S	T	E	V	E	45	S	E	N	E	C	A	
47	M	I	X	A	D	48	R	I	N	K	52	R	E
53	S	A	P	54	A	N	O	L	55	D	56	V	O
57	R	O	58	M	A	N	N	U	M	60	R	A	L
61	A	S	O	F	T	E	N	62	V	I	D	E	O
63	S	E	C	T	O	R	S	64	I	P	A	S	S

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

1	B	R	A	Y	S	6	A	P	E	9	S	10	O
13	P	R	E	R	E	Q	14	H	E	S	I	T	A
16	R	I	D	E	A	U	17	A	U	S	P	I	C
18	A	D	M	I	R	E	19	R	20	E	U	R	O
21	D	A	U	22	N	A	S	23	C	E	N	T	25
27	O	L	D	28	S	29	M	A	I	M	30	S	H
36	T	37	I	38	D	I	E	S	39	T	40	S	E
41	S	N	I	T	C	H	E	42	S	43	D	I	F
44	P	D	A	S	45	L	O	C	H	47	F	E	S
51	S	A	B	52	F	E	L	I	N	E	54	S	55
56	N	O	57	M	E	N	58	E	A	T	59	O	U
60	A	G	L	I	T	T	E	R	63	D	O	T	I
64	B	E	I	N	A	R	U	T	65	E	R	A	S
66	O	R	C	A	67	Y	R	S	68	D	E	B	T

7	8	3	4	5	2	6	1	9
9	5	1	7	6	3	8	2	4
6	2	4	9	8	1	5	3	7
3	6	9	5	4	8	1	7	2
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8	9	6	2	1	7	4	5	3
2	3	5	8	9	4	7	6	1

OBITUARIES*In Loving Memory of*
Brian Switzer
(Resident of Haliburton)

Brian Switzer suddenly passed on November 14, 2024. Brian Switzer was a beloved son of James and Carol Switzer from Fenelon Falls (predeceased). Predeceased by two loving older brothers John and Mike (jenn) Switzer. Loving uncle to Michael (Kelsey), Sara, Dawn, Justin (Jamie), Joseph, Ashley (Patrick), Maria, and great uncle of Alexandria, Thane, Zachary, Lucas, Quintin, Rhett, Emmett, Paisley, Benjamin, Spencer, Alana. Brian made many friends over the years from living in different townships between Lindsay and Haliburton and will be greatly missed.

Celebration of Life

As per Brian's wishes, cremation has taken place. Friends are invited to gather in **THE COMMUNITY ROOM** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209 for a celebration of Brian's life on November 25th, 2024 from 2 - 3. As an expression of sympathy, the family has asked for donations to be made to Snowflake Meadows in Brian's honour. These amazing people have helped take Zeus and find him a foster home till he can find his forever home. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

*In Loving Memory of*
Trevor Campbell
(Resident of Haliburton)

In loving memory of Trevor Campbell who passed peacefully at home with his wife Donna and his siblings Andy, Debbie, Cindy, Lisa, and Laura by his side. Predeceased by his parents, Bill and Margaret.

Trevor will always be remembered for his years of running Screaming Eagle Paint Ball with his wife Donna.

Trevor will be lovingly remembered by his children, Allan, Derek, and Crystal. Also remembered by his grandchildren, Chiara and Keegan, Kailey, Jemma, and Nash. As well as his many nieces and nephews. Trevor will be missed by all who knew him.

Celebration of Life

As per Trevor's wishes, cremation has taken place. A celebration of Trevor's life will be announced at a later date. As an expression of sympathy, donations can be made to the Canadian Cancer Society. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

*In Loving Memory of*
Christopher Charles Burton

Passed away suddenly at the Haliburton Hospital on Thursday, November 21, 2024 at the age of 66.

Dear son of Peggy Burton, John Burton and his wife Sue. Dear brother of Jon "Butch" and Doris, Cherie and Art, Wayne and Terry, Janice and the late Greg, Marc, Michelle and Doug. Fondly remembered by his many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Chris was a fiercely proud member of the Royal Canadian Legion, especially his local Branch 636 in Minden and was an avid card player with many senior groups.

A Memorial Legion Service will be held at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0 on Wednesday, December 4, 2024 at 2:00 pm. A Private Family Interment will follow at the Minden Cemetery. Refreshments and a time to share memories will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 636, 12847 Hwy 35, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0 beginning at 3:00 pm.

Memorial Donations to the Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Fund Branch 636 would be appreciated by the family.

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NOTICES

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NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Admission is free and the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using. This meeting is for addicts only. New meeting in Haliburton that meets every **Thursday** from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Link Building, 5152 County Rd 21. For more information and an online version visit www.cloana.org or call 1-888-811-3887

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by Barbara Olson

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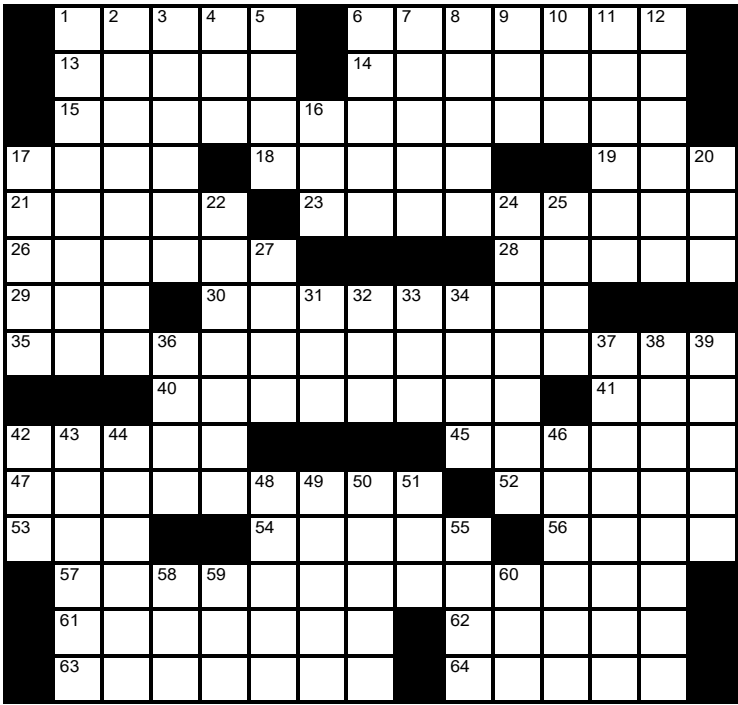
Across

- 1 Did a lawn chore
- 6 Bart's cry after "Ay!"
- 13 Gentle as ____
- 14 Mushed dogs?
- 15 Public administrators
- 17 Gushing review
- 18 "File," so to speak
- 19 It makes head lines?
- 21 Toward the stern
- 23 Not-hot nacho dip
- 26 Sock for tiny tootsies
- 28 ____ willow
- 29 Italian entrée suffix
- 30 Blood-binding cell
- 35 Lay's cucumber-flavoured snack
- 40 Best at standing guard
- 41 Op. ____ (footnote abbr.)
- 42 Carell of comedy
- 45 Iroquois name of a Toronto college
- 47 Enjoy the wet bar
- 52 Amy Winehouse song, 2006
- 53 Swindler's mark
- 54 "____ Fashioned Love Song" (Three Dog Night hit)
- 56 Evian rival from Norway
- 57 Components of the first words of 15-, 23, 35 and 47 Across
- 61 With equal frequency
- 62 TikTok upload
- 63 City zones
- 64 "Skip me," in poker

Down

- 1 Elbow pasta
- 2 Virgin in the kitchen?
- 3 Greet while driving, say
- 4 U.K. record label

- 5 Two-base hits: Abbr.
- 6 French sweetie
- 7 Sound-related, despite its sound
- 8 Ticked an e-vite box
- 9 Letters before a nickname
- 10 Simmer setting, for short
- 11 Stimulating nuts
- 12 Evaluate
- 16 Experimenter's deg.
- 17 Like Cujo after a bite
- 20 Word of Pride
- 22 Made small waves
- 24 Ghostly apparition
- 25 Giller Prize nominee: Abbr.
- 27 Wiesel or Saab
- 31 Opposite of dn.
- 32 Scalped item: Abbr.
- 33 Letter after ka, in Spanish
- 34 Minus
- 36 Mauna Loa spew
- 37 Winter fishing openings
- 38 "Bull's Head" and "Bather," for two
- 39 Kicks-at-the-can, so to speak
- 42 Texting standard
- 43 Sparkly half-crowns
- 44 Pull back the curtain on
- 46 State of the union, for some?
- 48 Greeted mommy, maybe
- 49 "Recovery of Your ____ Child" (self-help book)
- 50 Adjectives and adverbs, grammatically
- 51 Netherlands airline
- 55 Hindu mother goddess
- 58 Beaded slipper
- 59 Rudder's place
- 60 Van Winkle or Torn



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	2						8	
				8	7		1	
			1		2	5	6	
					9	1		
			2				3	5
	5	6		4			9	2



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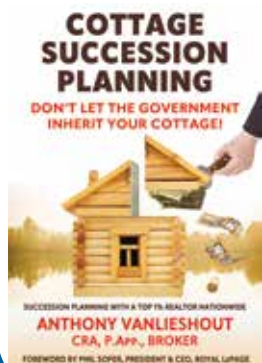
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- Full finished basement with walkout
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HUBBARD & MONTGOMERY • \$239,900

- 21.09 well treed retreat on year round road
- Ample space for privacy and exploration
- Access to spring fed restricted motor lake via open road allowance
- Multiple potential building sites – build your dream home
- Hydro available along road, close to amenities



LITTLE KENNISIS LAKE • \$919,900

- Unique point lot offering panoramic views with over 400 ft waterfront
- Handpicked lot with long time family ownership
- Mixture of rock and sand shoreline, firepit at waters edge
- 2 bdrm insulated cabin + loft and screened porch in "grandfathered location"
- Bunkie, year round access, turn key and ready to enjoy.



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HUBBARD & MONTGOMERY • \$184,900

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- Ample space for privacy and exploration
- Access to spring fed restricted motor lake via open road allowance
- Multiple potential building sites – build your dream home
- Hydro available along road, close to amenities

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Violetta Genova



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